



## **Arlington Poet Laureate Committee**

Minutes January 7, 2015

Present: Liza Halley, John Burt, Jane Howard, Pamela Powell, 8 AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall Annex

### **1. Approval of Minutes of December 10 Approved**

### **2. Board of Selectmen Meeting**

Things to bring up

1. We are pleased to have served.
2. What has been accomplished:
  - a. Creating a process for choosing the Poet Laureate
  - b. Soliciting applications
  - c. Choosing the laureate
3. We are extremely happy with Miriam Levine's activities as Poet Laureate and seek to facilitate what she does in any way we can. Because of our work she has been able to
  - a. Establish Office hours at the Library, which have been very busy
  - b. Give a Reading at Town Day
  - c. Offer a number of workshops at the Senior Center
  - d. Make many visits to schools and other organizations more broadly
  - e. Establish and organize of the Arlington Poetry prize contest (which received more than 300 submissions from local poets). She also organized the ceremony to celebrate the winner.
  - f. She has raised the profile of poetry in Arlington with articles in the Advocate and in other local media
4. Supporting the suggestion of Doug Heim, the Town Counsel, we would like to continue as an advisory committee to the Selectmen to support the Laureate. In that role we would serve as advisors to the Selectmen and as resources and advocates for the Laureate. We believe that the town should find a way to remunerate the Poet Laureate, as other area towns do. We want this position to be sustainable in the future, and believe that this will be an important factor in making it so.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30**